



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS RELEASE

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**NEBRASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S
155TH AIR REFUELING WING
WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER,
OUTGOING COMMANDER PROMOTED**

**RELEASED BY
MAJ. KEVIN HYNES**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. -- The Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Air Refueling Wing, based in Lincoln, Neb., conducted a change of command ceremony, June 3, on the parade grounds of the Nebraska National Guard air base.

Col. Richard Evans III of Lincoln, Neb., relinquished command of the 155th ARW to Col. Keith A. Schell, also of Lincoln. Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, Nebraska adjutant general, presided over the ceremony.

Lyons thanked Evans for his work during his more than four years as commander of the 155th ARW.

"Colonel Evans, your leadership during your tour as wing commander has made my job easier as the adjutant general," said Lyons. "But most importantly, you make your Airmen proud and the citizens of Nebraska proud of the wing and the Nebraska National Guard... You delivered every time the wing was called upon to serve the state or our nation."

Lyons also wished Schell well in his new role as commander of the 155th ARW.

"I'm confident that Colonel Schell will continue to deliver excellence day-in and day-out and will build upon the tradition of success in the wing," said Lyons. "The challenge will be to continue to focus on the federal mission while simultaneously keeping an eye on our state mission, all the while ensuring that the wing is ready and able. And I have no doubt that Colonel Schell is up to the challenge and is eager to embrace the challenges of wing command."

Schell said that he's ready to lead the 155th ARW, adding that becoming a commander means much to him.

"To me that means that I have the confidence to lead this organization," said Schell. "I have the confidence to serve this unit because of the members out there... I have the confidence in them doing their jobs here within the state and around the world."

Schell thanked his family for supporting him over the years and thanked state leadership for their confidence in him.

Schell is originally from Malcolm, Neb., where he graduated from Malcolm High School. He is also a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has been a member of the Nebraska Air National Guard since 1981. Prior to his new assignment he served as commander of the Air Guard's 155th Maintenance Group, which is part of the 155th ARW.

Evans, the eighth person to command the 155th, is originally from Omaha, Neb., where he graduated from Northwest High School and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He has been a member of the Nebraska Air National Guard since 1984. Before taking command of the 155th ARW, he commanded the Nebraska Air National Guard's 170th Group at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

After relinquishing command of the 155th ARW, Evans was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. He will now be assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB, Neb., where he will serve as the mobilization assistant to the director of Global Operations.

Evans reflected on the accomplishments of his tenure as commander and thanked his family and the airmen of the 155th for their hard work.

"The proof is in the pudding," said Evans. "When the calls came, whether it was for a state or federal mission, we were ready to go. We responded, sometimes on hours' notice, to do things around the world and every time we excelled."

"I couldn't be prouder of what we've done and I really enjoyed the opportunity to watch you and learn from you throughout my tenure," he added.

Evans said he had no doubt Schell would succeed as commander of the wing.

"I know that you and Lisa are ready for the challenge and will do extremely well in taking this wing to the next level."

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Photo captions:

120602-Z-ZO109-0077.JPG : Col. Keith Schell is presented the colors of the Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Air Refueling Wing by Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, Nebraska adjutant general, during a change of command ceremony held Sunday, June 3, at the Nebraska Air National Guard air base in Lincoln, Neb. Schell, who assumed command of the Nebraska's Air National Guard's largest organization from outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Richard Evans III, is the ninth commander in the history of the unit. (Nebraska Air National Guard photo.)

Note, additional photos of Evans and Schell are available upon request.